RESEARCH REVIEW TEAM DATA REQUEST – JOINT INSTITUTE QUESTIONS

CIFAR RESPONSE

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Contact Person: Ms. Sherry Lynch, CIFAR Administrator, 907-474-5698

1. CIFAR Mission and Brief History

The Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research (CIFAR) was established in May 1994 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by NOAA Administrator D. James Baker and University of Alaska President Jerome B. Komisar. CIFAR is the only cooperative institute with a primary focus on arctic research. It cooperates most closely with NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratories (PMEL), but also collaborates with other NOAA labs and agencies, for example, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Office Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). Since 1999, CIFAR has been located in the International Arctic Research Center (IARC) at UAF, which has provided new linkages and possibilities for cooperation.

As stated in the establishing MOU, the Institute is designed to accomplish the following:

i) Improve the effectiveness of NOAA-sponsored oceanic and atmospheric research in the Western Arctic, particularly Alaska, the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas, by fostering collaboration between NOAA and other Federal and State agencies in the region, and the University of Alaska.
ii) Improve the effectiveness of graduate-level education and expand the scientific possibilities and experiences available to graduate students to include their participation in joint research programs with NOAA and other agencies.
iii) Provide expanded training opportunities in arctic studies for researchers from NOAA laboratories and facilities.
iv) Serve as a focal point for the interaction between NOAA and the arctic research community for research activities related to NOAA's tasks and responsibilities in the Western Arctic.
v) Collaborate in technical expertise and access to the resources of NOAA and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), including the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center (ARSC).

2. NOAA funding from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 was $4,350,645.

2a. Information provided by Linda McLaughlin

2b. CIFAR Research Themes

- Atmospheric and Climate Research
- Climate Modeling
- UV and Arctic Haze Studies
- Marine Ecosystem Studies
- Fisheries Oceanography
- Hydrographic and Sea Ice Studies
- Tsunami Research
- Contaminant Effects
- Data Archiving and Support

2c. What percent of research is short term, medium term or long term?
Short term (0 - 2 years) = 71%
Medium term (2 - 5 years) = 29%
Long term (5+ years) = 0%

2d. What is the geographic scope of research – regional, national or global?

The primary geographic area of focus for CIFAR is the Western Arctic/Bering Sea region. This is the area of greatest interest to both NOAA agencies and UAF researchers. However, CIFAR also supports the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, which is circum-arctic in its scope, and research conducted by CIFAR on arctic climate, fisheries and ecosystems has global as well as national and regional implications.

3. 100% of CIFAR funding comes from NOAA.

4. What is the unique expertise that CIFAR brings to NOAA?

Two goals of CIFAR, as stated in the MOU between NOAA and the University of Alaska (UAF), are:

- Facilitate the establishment of joint projects between NOAA and UAF.
- Encourage, facilitate and promote research among all organizations and programs active in the Western Arctic.

CIFAR is part of the University of Alaska, which is one of the principal research universities in the United States engaged in arctic research. The expertise on arctic matters available through the staff of CIFAR and the researchers at UAF are ideal to achieve the goals of encouraging, facilitating, and promoting joint research in the Arctic. This includes contacts not only with US institutions, but also with all arctic nations, through such projects as the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, partly funded by NOAA, and joint oceanographic cruises with our Russian neighbors.

5. Two CIFAR administrative staff receive 50% or more of their funding from NOAA; other staff members are primarily funded from other sources.